

What is iodophor?

- An over-the counter antiseptic (povidone-iodine) commonly used for cleaning scrapes, cuts, and wounds to prevent infections. It is FDA cleared for use in the nose to prevent infection.

Why is iodophor being put in my nose?

- Our hospital applies iodophor to all patients to clear germs from the nose, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).
- Because having MRSA in the nose is a known risk factor for later infection, we use iodophor to help protect our patients.

How safe is iodophor?

- Povidone-iodine has been safely used in healthcare for over 60 years.
- Side effects are uncommon and mild, but may include irritation, runny nose, and sneezing.

Why is the nasal iodophor swab* so big?

- The large swab size makes it faster to apply to the entire inner nostril. The swab is soft and squishy, and easily fits into small nostrils.
- Complete coating of the entire inner nose is important for protection.

How often does iodophor need to be given?

- All patients will receive nasal iodophor for 5 days, twice daily, on admission. Then all patients will receive iodophor every other week for 5 days, twice daily. One swab is applied per nostril.

Will my nose turn brown from the swab?

- No. After the swab is applied, only the very outer edge of the nose may have some brown tinge.
- A tissue can be used to dab the brown area if bothersome.



* The use of trade names is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the Department of Health and Human Services or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[If you have more questions, please ask your nurse.](#)